UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,697	04/05/2004	Richard Scott Bourgeois	126533-1	9731

6147 7590 03/31/2009

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY
GLOBAL RESEARCH
PATENT DOCKET RM. BLDG. K1-4A59
NISKAYUNA, NY 12309

EXAMINER	
CHUO, TONY SHENG HSIANG	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1795	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
03/31/2009	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ldocket@crd.ge.com
rosssr@crd.ge.com
parkskl@crd.ge.com

Response to Arguments

1. The applicant argues that the compliant structure (indicated by the Examiner as element "42") extends between two outer sheets (38, 40) to form the compression member (32), which is not located between the manifold (54, 56) and the fuel cell (16), but rather parallel to the plane of the fuel cell. Thus, the compliant structure (indicated by the Examiner as element "42") does not accommodate for the differences in the thermal expansion coefficients in the same plane between the fuel cell and the manifold, as asserted by the Examiner.

In response, the fact that the element "42" may be parallel to the fuel cell does not negate the fact that it can also be located between the fuel cell "16" and the manifold "56". As shown in Figure 2, the compliant portion "42" extends between the fuel cell "16" and the sealed fuel passage "56" formed by plate "34" because the compliant portion "42" contacts both the fuel cell "16" and the plate "34". In addition, the corrugated structure of element "42" is capable of accommodating for differences in the thermal expansion coefficients in the same plane as the hollow manifold as claimed because the structure of element "42" can extend in the same (horizontal) plane as the fuel cell.

TC

/Jonathan Crepeau/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1795